

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01095 251629Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050243 251633Z /75

P R 251600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7678

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1095

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: CALL ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU

REF: (A) NICOSIA 1089, (B) STATE 104865

1. DURING MY APRIL 25 CALL ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU REPORTED SEPTEL, I CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REF B BY TELLING THE PRESIDENT THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS THE CONCERN OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF IRANIAN TELEVISION, HE HAD ANSWERED A QUESTION REGARDING THE U.S. ROLE IN 1974 IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP. I REMINDED HIM, THAT WE HAD WARNED PRESIDENT MAKARIOS TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF THE COUP, THAT WE HAD INFORMATION THAT SUCH AN ATTEMPT MIGHT INDEED BE MADE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE.

2. THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD NOT DONE ANY SUCH THING. I THEN DREW FROM MY
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POCKET THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW AND CITED THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, POINTING OUT THAT BY BEGINNING HIS SENTENCE WITH "IF" THE IMPLICATION WAS LEFT THAT THE U.S. HAD INDEED BEEN CAPABLE OF PREVENTING THE COUP. THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY SAID THE PROBLEM WAS TRANSLATION FROM GREEK INTO ENGLISH AND HE ASSURED ME THAT IN THE GREEK, WHICH HE HAD USED, NO SUCH IMPLICATION OCCURRED.

HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THE U.S. COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE SECOND TURKISH INVASION, HAD IT SO WISHED, AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ADMITTED AS MUCH.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT WAS VERY UNFORTUNATE FOR SUCH A COMMENT TO BE MADE AT A TIME WHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WERE TENSE AND WHERE SUCH STATEMENTS WOULD TEND TO REINFORCE SENTIMENTS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM AMONG THE GREEK CYPRIOT PEOPLE.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID I SHOULD INFORM MY GOVERNMENT THAT HE COULD ASSURE THEM HE WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH ANTI-AMERICANISM THAN WAS WASHINGTON. HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING GOOD U.S.-CYPRIOT RELATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO AVOID GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT TO ANY ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS AND THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

5. I THANKED HIM FOR HIS ASSURANCE.
STONE

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